



**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Eastern States
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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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BLM Distributes PILT Payments to Local Governments

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will send almost \$210 million to approximately 1,900 local governments in accordance with the Payments in Lieu of Taxes Act (PILT) for Fiscal Year 2002. Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton announced that PILT payments are being sent three months earlier to help local governments budget for their fiscal years, many of which begin July 1.

The BLM administers PILT payments, which are provided to local governments by the Federal Government to offset tax revenues lost because of tax-exempt Federal land in their jurisdictions. "PILT payments are essential to support vital community services--such as firefighting, police protection, and providing healthcare -- in rural communities across the West," said BLM Director Kathleen Clarke. By moving up the payments, we are providing counties with great flexibility to manage their budgets," she added.

Congress appropriates funds for PILT payments to eligible units of local government each year. The BLM calculates the amount of payments using a formula based on population and the amount of federal land in a local jurisdiction. These payments are in addition to Federal revenues transferred to local government under other programs, such as income generated from the use of Federal land for livestock grazing, timber harvests, and mineral receipts.

This year's PILT payments of \$209,364,595 (nationwide) are an increase of \$10,203,715 over the payments for Fiscal Year 2001. Changes in payments are due to the amount appropriated by Congress and changes in other Federal revenues. Since the PILT program began in 1977, the BLM has distributed more than \$2.7 billion.

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The BLM, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages more land – 262 million acres – than any other Federal Agency. Most of this land is located in 12 western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of subsurface Federal minerals throughout the nation. The BLM has an annual budget of about \$1.2 billion and a workforce of about 9,000 employees.

BLM-Eastern States is responsible for managing the public lands and resources in the 31 States east of and bordering on the Mississippi River for present and future generations. Listed below are payments made to the eastern states (except Rhode Island, which has minimal Federal land) and the District of Columbia.

2002 PILT Payments by State

Alabama	\$ 744,420	Mississippi	\$ 937,308
Arkansas	\$ 2,807,672	Missouri	\$ 2,122,737
Connecticut	\$ 25,204	New Hampshire	\$ 843,312
Delaware	\$ 2,348	New Jersey	\$ 58,150
District of Columbia	\$ 14,940	New York	\$ 77,247
Florida	\$ 2,913,111	North Carolina	\$ 2,044,276
Georgia	\$ 1,631,404	Ohio	\$ 480,781
Illinois	\$ 548,595	Pennsylvania	\$ 381,030
Indiana	\$ 384,828	South Carolina	\$ 582,565
Iowa	\$ 215,922	Tennessee	\$ 1,281,451
Kentucky	\$ 1,447,043	Vermont	\$ 430,799
Louisiana	\$ 266,172	Virginia	\$ 2,147,341
Maine	\$ 168,964	West Virginia	\$ 1,430,048
Maryland	\$ 81,405	Wisconsin	\$ 564,377
Massachusetts	\$ 60,880		
Michigan	\$ 1,971,271		
Minnesota	\$ 1,303,982	Total	\$27,969,583

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